bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee had constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee had decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly GAIL and NIGEC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the present state of bilateral relationship with Pakistan, Government is not considering any proposal for on-land natural gas pipeline transiting through Pakistan.

Oil refineries

981. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refineries in India in public sector, State-wise and the amount invested; and

(b) whether Government have made any action plan to start more oil refineries in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on 31.3.2003, there were 17 Public Sector Refineries and 1 Private Sector Refinery in India. The state-wise details are given in the enslosed statement. (*See* below)

The total investment made by the Government/Public Sector Undertakings in the above 17 Public Sector Refineries is approximately Rs. 34,715.31 crore.

(b) At present three refineries, one each in Bina (Madhya Pradesh) Paradip (Orissa) and Bhatinda (Punjab), are under various stages of implementation.

Statement

Details of oil refineries in public sector and private sector, state-wise is given below

State	PSU	Private	Total
Andhra Pradesh	2		2
Assam	4		4
Bihar	1		1
Gujarat	1	1	2
Haryana	1		1
Karnataka	1		1
Kerala	1		1
Maharashtra	2		2
Tamil Nadu	2		2
Uttar Pradesh	1		1
West Bengal	1		1
	17	1	18

Oil reserves in Cauvery basin

982. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil reserves have been found in Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to explore the crude oil and setting up of oil refineries; and

(c) the details of financial allocation earmarked for oil exploration activities in this basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 38.98 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) (Oil+Oil Equivalent of Gas) (O+OEG) of ultimate reserves in onland and 5.41 MMT of ultimate reserves of hydrocarbon in offshore, through exploratory efforts in Cauvery basin of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and private joint venture companies, has been established.